

Dear Members,

With the season now starting to wind down, we are looking forward to the 1985 Annual Reunion. Planning for the event, which is to be held at the Lake Hume Resort from Friday evening February 1st. to Sunday afternoon February 3rd., is progressing smoothly. At this stage we expect that the cost of the weekend will be \$55 per head (meals and accomodation). Invitations should be ready at the printers shortly.

Geoff Johnson has offered to provide a mini bus to transport Sydney members to Lake Hume and we are hoping for a good response from the Sydney area so that we can make use of his generous offer. Once again we are indebted to Geoff for advance publicity of our reunion in Truck & Bus.

NEW MEMBERS.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new A.L.D.E.C.C. members :-

Brian Davis	Perth
Jeff De Jersey	Melbourne
Garry Higginson	Melbourne
Graeme Howarth	Alice Springs
Jan Piper	Perth
Brendan Weston	Sydney

ARNHEM LAND JOY FLIGHTS.

The following is an extract from a letter sent to our association by Arrmunda Airways who are prepared to operate flights out of Cooinda, should anyone be interested.

'By contacting this office, our aircraft, a 6 seat, twin engine Partenavia, could be flown to Cooinda at no extra charge to cater for ten or more people, at \$22 per seat.

Scenic flights operate out of Jabiru at \$22 per half hour and \$44 per hour. The half hour flight takes in the Arnhemland escarpment, East Alligator gorge and river, Obiri Rock and Cannon Hill, the Magela flood plains, Mudginberri Station Abatoirs, then back to Jabiru. The hour flight goes down the escarpment to Twin and Jim Jim Falls, across to Yellow Waters and Cooinda then back to Jabiru.

A 10% commission will be deducted on request for cash or pre paid bookings only.'

The contact is Barbara Payne, Jabiru Agency, Arrmunda Airways, Letz Rent-a-car building, Jabiru Airstrip. Telephone: (089) 79 2552 A/h. (089) 79 2139 or Darwin (089) 81 8069.

THE LATEST GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Jim and Jenny Heyward on the arrival of a son, Matthew. Also congratulations to Rod and Lorraine Leitch who are expecting an addition to the family - just imagine, a little Hagar! Further congratulations to Elwyn Holohan who on August 13 became a grandmother to Lauren Theresa.

Best wishes to Bill Rudd who will marry Judy Monaghan of Brisbane on November 17th. Speaking of marriages we learn that Dot Hamilton has married and is now Mrs. Gary Kimpton and living in Port Hedland.

It is rumour no more, but a fact that Keith Hindmarsh is a farmer now on King Island. If any old mates should ever find

themselves down that way we are told that there would be no problem rustling up a tent and lilo if they wanted to stay.

Ray Scobie is now manager at the Ayers Rock Lodge, Yulara, and he assures us that there is always a cold tinnie in the fridge there should any A.L.D.E.C.C. members drop in.

Many of us could probably recall a case of entering the wrong motel room by mistake, but on a recent trip to Perth Doug Lever went one step further and, after the bar closed, invited a whole mob back to the wrong room. After realising his mistake and that the person in bed wasn't daughter Karen, Doug made a quick U-turn and a hasty retreat straight over the top of Gerard Sadler, David Verity and numerous others who were hot on his heels.

By the way, if you recently caught a glimpse of a new Lever coach and are still wondering what it was you saw, you were probably right the first time. It is a new Silver Eagle.

Doug suffered a bad back injury in Geraldton on his recent trip to the west and he has asked us to convey his thanks to Faye, manageress of the Geraldton Auto Motel, and the boys from Parlorcars, fellow A.L.D.E.C.C. members of course, for their invaluable assistance.

Also just back from a tour to the west is young Normie Brown. While passengers on his wildflowers special were camped overnight at Monkey Mia on Shark Bay, Normie stayed at Denham and paid a visit to Johnny Ronberg who many will remember from the early days at Heavitree Gap. Norm reports that Johnny is in good health and has a nice home overlooking the water. He sends his fondest regards and wishes to be remembered to all his old friends.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 40 YEARS AGO?

Around this time in 1944, Ansett Airways and its subsidiary Ansett Roadways of Hamilton, purchased all the shares in Pioneer Tourist Coaches. The latter company had been incorporated in 1923, to carry on the business that had been commenced in 1914 by W.A. Withers. At the outbreak of war in 1939, Pioneer was the largest and most successful tourist coach operation in Australia with 87 vehicles and licences in Vic., N.S.W., Qld., S.A. & N.T. Its activities included interstate and intra-state tourist services and extensive charter and taxi operations. War had however brought about the suspension of all road tourist services in Australia and the Pioneer vehicles had been diverted to essential war-time uses. The assets acquired by Reg Ansett therefore consisted of valuable rights, licences and goodwill but no suitable tour vehicles.